
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 239 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY LAWRENCE, OCTOBER 24, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, OCTOBER 24, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a comprehensive study and report of Federal, State
3 and city funds and grants allocated to the Office of the
4 Philadelphia District Attorney for the servicing and
5 compensation of crime victims.

6 WHEREAS, The Office of the Philadelphia District Attorney is
7 a member of the joint local-State firearm task force ("Gun
8 Violence Task Force") that currently operates in the City of
9 Philadelphia; and

10 WHEREAS, The Gun Violence Task Force is tasked with combating
11 the unlawful sale, transfer, possession, use, manufacture and
12 control of firearms in the City of Philadelphia; and

13 WHEREAS, The Gun Violence Task Force is funded by annual
14 General Fund appropriations; and

15 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2018-2019, the Gun Violence Task
16 Force received \$4,378,000 in funding from the General Fund; and

17 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2019-2020, the Gun Violence Task
18 Force received \$6,878,000 in funding from the General Fund; and

19 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2020-2021, the Gun Violence Task
20 Force received \$6,815,000 in funding from the General Fund; and

1 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2021-2022, the Gun Violence Task
2 Force received \$7,115,000 in funding from the General Fund; and

3 WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia has suffered from an
4 escalating surge of violent crime and firearm violence since
5 2018; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2018, there were 353 homicides and 1,442 shooting
7 victims in the City of Philadelphia; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2019, there were 356 homicides and 1,463 shooting
9 victims in the City of Philadelphia; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2020, there were 499 homicides and 2,245 shooting
11 victims in the City of Philadelphia; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2021, there were 562 homicides and 2,332 shooting
13 victims in the City of Philadelphia; and

14 WHEREAS, Between 2018 and 2021, there were 1,770 homicides in
15 the City of Philadelphia; and

16 WHEREAS, Of the 7,482 shooting incidents between 2018 and
17 2021 in the City of Philadelphia, 1,466 were fatal; and

18 WHEREAS, The Victim Services Unit within the Office of the
19 Philadelphia District Attorney asserts on its publicly
20 accessible Internet website that the unit advocates on behalf of
21 all crime victims and witnesses in the City of Philadelphia; and

22 WHEREAS, The CARES Peer Crisis Responders for Homicide
23 Survivors within the Office of the Philadelphia District
24 Attorney asserts on its publicly accessible Internet website
25 that it provides services to families of homicide victims;
26 therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
28 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a
29 comprehensive study of the Federal, State and city funds and any
30 grants allocated to or under the direction or control of the

1 Office of the Philadelphia District Attorney for the servicing
2 or compensation of crime victims and how these funds have been
3 spent and prepare a report of its findings; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and
5 Delinquency assist the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
6 to the extent requested by the chair of the committee; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
9 submit a report of its findings to the House of Representatives
10 within nine months of the adoption of this resolution; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Auditor
13 General to conduct a forensic audit of the use and expenditure
14 of State funds by the office of Philadelphia District Attorney
15 and any other money that was appropriated to the Gun Violence
16 Task Force in fiscal years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and
17 2021-2022; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the forensic audit address any improprieties,
19 negligence or misuse of funds.